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**CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE  
BOARD OF MANAGERS  
OCTOBER 12, 2015  
STAFF REPORT**

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**TO:** BOARD OF MANAGERS  
**FROM:** MICHAEL YOUNES, DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS *My*  
**CC:** MEREDITH WELLINGTON, WESTERN GROVE PARK COMMITTEE CHAIR  
**DATE:** 10/8/2015  
**SUBJECT:** REESTABLISHMENT OF THE WESTERN GROVE PARK COMMITTEE TO  
THE WESTERN GROVE PARK FRIENDS GROUP

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**Background**

In July 2011, the Village Board appointed a Single-Purpose Committee at the request of the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission (P&P) to liaise with the Commission on the development of the park and selection of materials and other design features. Overall the Committee and P&P have worked very well together to develop a park plan that meets and hopefully will exceed the expectations of the Village residents and surrounding community.

Now that design is complete and park development is slated to begin this upcoming spring (2016). The Village and P&P have turned attention to ensuring the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the park is maintained. As Board members may remember, at your September regular meeting approval was granted for the Management Agreement and Friends Group Fundraising Agreement. The Management Agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities for the overall management of the park once constructed, while the Fundraising Agreement outlines how funds can be raised and expended for the benefit of the Park and to assist the Village and P&P with the ongoing maintenance needs in the park.

**Scope of Work**

Over the past four (4) years the Committee's original scope was to work with Village and P&P staff to develop and assist in the material and design feature selection of the Western Grove Park (formerly known as the Wohlfarth Property) as an urban open space park.

Going forward, the Committee would still work with Village and P&P staff and meet to discuss various aspects of the park's maintenance in addition to recommending improvements, additional features or plantings for in the park. The Committee would also coordinate and conduct the following activities:

1. The Committee will send out an annual appeal for donations.
2. The initial fundraising goal of the Committee would be \$350,000.
3. First Priority: the funds will be used to meet any shortfall in the construction budget of MNCPPC, so that the Park will be completed as approved.
4. Second Priority: the funds will be used for Park amenities and enhancements. This includes the replacement, as needed, of currently approved amenities, and, with the passage of time, new or enhanced amenities.
5. Over time, other amenities may include:
  - (a) Enhancement of the Natural Play Area;

- (b) flowerbeds and additional landscaping; and
  - (c) other amenities.
6. As part of the Second Priority, the funds may also be used for maintenance, for example, to maintain the water feature and the flowerbeds.
  7. Finally, the funds may be used for Park events to be sponsored by the Committee.

Since the Committee will serve as a Village Committee, recommendations will be forwarded to the Village Board for approval before submission to P&P for final authorization<sup>1</sup>.

### **Current Membership**

Committee meetings are often attended by numerous abutting and interested residents. However, the Committee currently consists of eight (8) voting members:

- Meredith Wellington, Chair (West Lenox Street)
- Nina Bang-Jensen (Oliver Street)
- Susie Eig (West Kirke Street)
- Diane Kartalia (Grove Street and an abutting neighbor to the park)
- Virginia Leachman (Newlands Street)
- Jay Treadwell (Grove Street and an abutting neighbor to the park)
- Lyric Winik (East Lenox Street)
- Peter Yeo (Grafton Street)

All existing members have indicated that they would like to remain on the Friends Group.

At this point, Ms. Wellington, does not recommend expanding the voting membership of the Committee beyond the current number. If membership was increased or open to everyone gaining a consensus on recommendations would prove difficult given the wide range of competing interests and views.

Since the Board originally authorized the Committee, in July 2011, under specific scope, reestablishment of the Committee, its membership and approval of the updated scope/mission is requested.

### **Draft Motion**

I move to reestablish the Western Grove Park Committee as the Western Grove Park Friends Group and move to reappoint the following members to serve on the Friends Group:

- Meredith Wellington, as Chair
- Nina Bang-Jensen
- Susie Eig
- Diane Kartalia
- Virginia Leachman
- Jay Treadwell
- Lyric Winik
- Peter Yeo

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<sup>1</sup> The Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission has final approving authority over all modifications, maintenance changes or additions to the Park to ensure they are consistent with the park's approved facility plan.